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Washington LABOR MARKET

November 1989

Washington State
Employment Security

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Commissioner

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Highlights

You're Either In Or You're Out

October reflected the best of times for Washington's employment situation. Much of the month-to-month movement showed fairly typical seasonal pattern impacting much of the economic base. Meanwhile, the underlying strength of the economy continued virtually unabated. The combination succeeded in pushing total statewide nonfarm employment to the highest level on record and dropping overall unemployment to the lowest for the year to date. Washington's employment growth mirrors a dynamic economy which thus far evidences no letup either in terms of pattern or duration.

At the same time, October was perhaps as notable for what it did not include as for what it did. The Boeing strike, affecting 43,000 production workers from October 4 to November 22, was not reflected in the Oc-

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tober statistics. Nor is it likely to show up in November. The orders of magnitude approach 4 percent of Seattle's total nonfarm employment, and the strike certainly ranks as the most significant disruption since a like walkout in 1977. However, the strike on both ends encompassed only part of the pay period which included the 12th of the month. And by definition, workers are counted by pay period rather than specific cutoff date. Had the strike been included, total statewide nonfarm employment would have fallen in October by 36,000 rather than increasing by 6,800.

No impact would have shown up in the unemployment data. Workers on strike are not counted as unemployed. Hence, the state's jobless rate under either condition dropped one tenth of a percentage point in October to 5.2 percent of the labor force. This registered the lowest jobless figure for the year to date and essentially matched that of October 1988. The comparable national average was only slightly lower at 5.0 percent.

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE

	Oct. 1989 (prelim.)	Sep. 1989 (revised)	Oct. 1988 (revised)
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,411,700	2,385,500	2,327,900
Employment	2,287,400	2,258,400	2,206,700
Unemployment	124,300	127,100	121,200
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.3	5.2
National Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.0

Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.
Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

The September-October period typically marks the low point for the year in terms of statewide joblessness. The fact that the overall unemployment rate in the low month was level with a year ago strongly suggests that employment growth and labor force growth are now travelling roughly in sync. Up until now, the jobless rate

had been dropping an average of one percentage point a year from a peak of 12 percent in 1982. But labor shortages have now become an issue in many key areas. It would appear that the state has achieved in 1989 what amounts to not only a seasonal low in joblessness but a cyclical low as well. Further progress in drawing down the overall unemployment rate from here on out will be hard to come by.

Total employment again this month looked largely to be statistical noise. The outsized increase in October followed on the heels of an outsized drop in September. Together, the two months basically offset each other to bring the household-based sample back closer in line with the larger employer-based nonfarm employment series. The year-to-year increase of 80,700 workers should be regarded as the more meaningful measure.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Reopening of colleges and universities more than offset seasonal cutbacks elsewhere in the economy to drive employment up sharply in October. Normal seasonal trend would have dictated a net increase in nonagricultural employment of about 2,400. This year came in at a much heftier 6,800. It was services, however, rather than education that drove the margin higher owing to the dual impact of economic and population growth over the past year.

Public education boosted government employment by 17,300 in the latest month as the regular academic year got underway at the state's major colleges and universities. Meanwhile, private educational institutions, which oftentimes startup later than their public counterparts, rounded out their staffing for the year. The net result brought total employment in education to 188,200, up modestly by 2 percent from October 1988.

Services Smooth Out The Cycle

In contrast, services dipped far less than seasonal in October. Two sectors in particular stood out: lodging and private recreational facilities. If you think you're neighbors are having more fun this year than last, you're absolutely right! A combination of factors would seem to be at work.

For one, recreation and tourism has become an increasingly important year-round activity in Washington, boosted by major convention centers, sports arenas, and destination resort facilities. In addition, the general population has become increasingly health conscious. Witness the plethora of health clubs, diet centers, and weight rooms which have come on the scene in recent years. Both have now reached critical mass sufficient to make a difference.

Secondly, business services has captured a higher proportion of total services activity. Over the past four years, employment in business services has expanded better than 50 percent, and its share of the services economy has jumped from 17 percent in 1985 to 21 percent. Generally, services to business tend to be far less susceptible to seasonal fluctuation; hence their greater presence is likely acting to smooth out some of the overall month-to-month movement in the services sector.

Spring Forward, Fall Back

Countering the October boost in education and atypical strength in services were fairly normal reductions elsewhere in the economy. Lumber and wood products dropped by 600; food processing by 300; and stone, clay, and glass by 200 as the peak summer season faded into fall. A somewhat heavier than usual 400-worker cutback, however, took place in paper manufacturing. This sector logically acts as a key barometer of the national economy and the concensus forecast underscores a much reduced rate of increase in real GNP for the fourth quarter.

Also reflecting more than seasonal impact, employment in aluminum manufacturing dropped 200 in October and stood 300 below the peak of 9,100 in July. The industry built up rapidly over the past three years with reopening of two closed smelters in 1987 and production pushing against capacity since 1988. This year witnessed a marked dropoff in housing and auto production. It appears that shortfall is now working its way back through the pipeline. Aluminum production nationally fell in October for the third consecutive month to an annual rate of 3.84 million metric tons from a peak of 4.1 million in the first half.

On The Credit Side Of The Ledger

Aerospace and other transportation equipment manufacturing, meanwhile, added 300 workers each from September to October. The aerospace addition was relatively modest considering the 900-worker a month average since the beginning of the year. But the expansion continued despite the overwhelming impact of the machinists' strike. Boeing production over the seven-week strike period came to a virtual standstill, causing slippage in delivery schedules and unquestionably drawing down the U.S. balance of trade statistics for the fourth quarter. Boeing ranks as the nation's third largest exporter with overseas sales approximating $1 billion a month. Return to work has become an urgent matter of catchup.

On the other hand, the expansion in shipbuilding over the month was *very* significant. All of the increase centered at the major shipyards representing additional repair and modification work. Only a couple years ago, the vitality of the shipbuiding industry in the Pacific Northwest was seriously questioned. Since July, employment in shipbuilding has shot up by a third to 5,300 workers.

Construction Continues To Break Records

Employment in construction dropped seasonally by 1,000 workers in October, but the level of 114,900 workers represented the highest for the month on record. As with previous months, the movement in October was shared near equally by the three major components: housing, nonresidential building, and heavy construction. Widespread strength in construction has accompanied the entire seven years of economic expansion, driving payrolls in the industry up nearly 50 percent since 1982.

Moreover, the need continues. Housing starts last year jumped nearly 20 percent to a high of 45,000 units. Roughly three-quarters of that increase centered in multi-family dwellings. This year, housing starts through the third quarter are up another 3 percent with all of that increase for additional single family units. Nonetheless, rental vacancy rates in the greater central Puget Sound area have plummented to the lowest in a decade. Seattle housing prices have jumped close to 25 percent over the past year - the highest of any

metropolitan area in the nation according to the National Association of Realtors.

Retailers Capture The Big Picure

Trade employment in Washington dropped seasonally by 3,400 workers in October as restaurants and gasoline stations signaled an end to the summer tourist season. The retrenchment was significantly heavier than a year ago, but basically in line with previous trend. The pullback at restaurants and fast food outlets following very nontypical reductions in September narrowed the increase in that sector to within 2 percent of a year ago. The difference through the first half had registered on the order of 6 percent.

12-Month Pace Second Highest In The Nation

Only Nevada has posted a higher rate of nonfarm employment growth than Washington over the past 12 months. Washington's 4.9 percent October-to-October expansion contrasts with 5.5 percent for Nevada and 2.7 percent for the nation as a whole. It should be noted that Washington's economy is close to four times larger than that of Nevada, the increase of 97,100 in the Evergreen State standing against 30,400 in the Gem State.

Over the past seven years, Washington's nonfarm employment has increased by a third or 510,000 workers. The rate of increase compares favorably with both the 1963-69 and 1975-80 upcycles. But the numbers are significantly larger given that the takeoff has been from a much higher base. The expansion of the 1960's totalled roughly 285,000; that of the latter-half of the 1970's reached 410,000. In all three cases, aerospace played a pivotal role. Aerospace has directly accounted for roughly 10 percent of the current expansion; trade and services by more than half.

In addition, widespread strength continues to be the case through October. Trade and services employment was higher than a year ago by 20,900 and 25,600, respectively. Mirroring the general pace of the economy, both construction and government were up roughly 10,000 each. The rate of employment increase in construction over the past 12 months has exceeded the national average by better than 3 to 1; trade and finance, insurance, and real estate by 2 to 1. The standout, however, is manufacturing with its high direct multiplier

which proceeds to build locally in the face of no growth nationally. October-to-October payrolls in durable and nondurable goods production was up 20,500 or nearly 6 percent.

AREA TRENDS

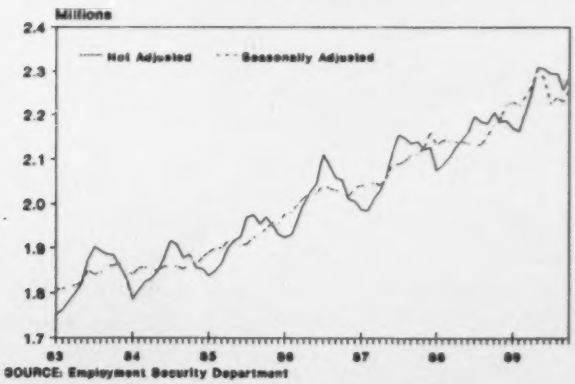
The Best Of The Seasons

Reopening of colleges and universities dropped unemployment in the metropolitan areas by one-tenth of a percentage point in October to 4.9 percent of the labor force - lower than both the state and national averages. Understandably, the Seattle PMSA witnessed the largest improvement over the month, dropping from 4.4 percent to a scant 4.0 percent. This was the lowest of any month over the past 20 years save December 1988 when it was also 4.0 percent. Tacoma and Spokane stood slightly higher at 5.4 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively.

Offsetting Resource-Based Economies

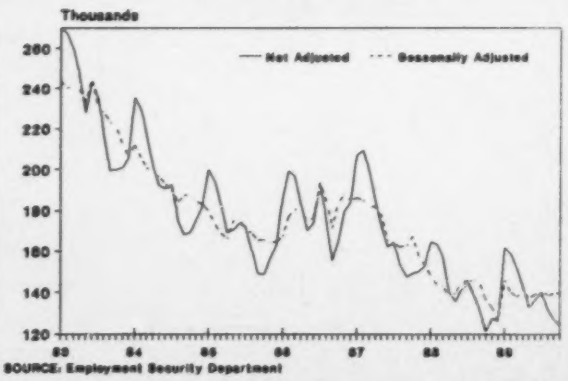
As agriculture-food processing turned from its seasonal peak, area jobless in eastern Washington heightened in October from 6.1 percent to 6.5 percent on average. In contrast, the delayed impact of seasonal factors in the timber industry kept the economies of the logging and lumber-dependent areas of the state moving forward. Accordingly, unemployment rates in such areas as Mason, Grays Harbor, and Lewis counties dropped by a half to a full percentage point over the month to their seasonal lows for the year.

STATE TOTAL RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT
JAN 1983 - OCT 1989



SOURCE: Employment Security Department

STATE TOTAL RESIDENT UNEMPLOYMENT
JAN 1983 - OCT 1989



SOURCE: Employment Security Department

INDUSTRY NOTES

Future Power Constraints

The Bonneville Power Administration - federal marketer of half the Pacific Northwest's power supply - has put the region on notice of impending shortages by 1991. At the current rate of growth, the system appears to be facing an 11 megawatt deficit within two years. The amount is not huge considering the 8,400 megawatt generating capacity. But the turnabout is stark from what was estimated only last year to be a 400 megawatt surplus through the 1990's. Driving demand is a stronger than expected regional economy. Increased conservation efforts and small supplemental generating plants offer the most practical short-run solution. This logically translates, however, into additional federal spending and higher electricity rates.

Again The Phoenix Rises

An expanding Hanford workforce is once again boosting the economy of the Tri-Cities area. Closure of the N-Reactor and loss of potential planned additional contract work in 1988 forced payrolls at Hanford to drop by 2,200 in the 15 months to April 1989. Staffing went from 14,552 to a low of 12,353. Total employment in the Tri-Cities MSA immediately fell off. Over the past six months, however, payrolls among the three principal contractors have increased nearly 700 and another 750 are expected to be added within the next year.

Environmental cleanup and molecular science are providing the current upward thrust. Since 1987, Battelle Northwest has invested $8 million in the molecular science program at Hanford. Congress has authorized $6 million for staff, equipment, and research for the center which Battelle plans to house in a $135 million laboratory covering 187,000 square feet. Over the next 12 months, Battelle is expected to hire up to 350 more workers; Westinghouse Hanford, 230; and Kaiser Engineers Hanford, 170. These additions substantially heighten the economic prospects for the Tri-Cities economy into 1990.

Spokane Wins One, Loses One

Within the Spokane economy, Instrumentation Laboratories has announced plans to close its clinical equipment manufacturing plant by the end of next year. The shutdown will cost 100 jobs. Inefficiencies owing to distance from the corporate headquarters in Lexington,

Massachusetts were cited as the cause. Operations will be consolidated with the parent corporation.

At the same time, the Defense Department announced the selection of Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane as a site for deployment of the MX nuclear missile. Events in Eastern Europe leave the program in question. But if funded, the project would pump $80 million into the Spokane area economy and create 950 jobs at the height of construction in 1991-92. Fairchild is home to the 92nd Bombardment Wing utilizing B-52 aircraft.

Tacoma Widens Its Take

On the other side of the state, the U.S. Commerce Department approved expanding the Port of Tacoma's foreign trade zone. An addition 248 acres will be added to the 638-acre site used as a major staging point for distribution of foreign-made goods. Last year, an estimated $688 million worth of goods were processed within the zone - the biggest volume of any such zone in the nation. Principal users currently include Mazda and General Motors; potential users of the added space will likely include Kawasaki Thermal Systems. Employment in the zone totals 250.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Inflation Under Wraps

Inflation at the wholesale level slowed in October with the producer price index rising 0.4 percent after a 0.9 percent spurt in September. Energy costs in particular subsided over the month after pacing much of the September advance. Food prices, on the other hand, shifted gears from a decline of 0.6 percent in the previous month to a modest 1.4 percent advance. The latter was largely the result of weather impacting southern vegetable crops. There was no increase in prices of goods at the intermediate and crude stages of production. Wholesale prices have risen at a 5.2 percent annual rate through the first 10 months of 1989.

Further along the pipeline, higher costs of housing and transportation translated into a 0.5 percent increase in the consumer price index from September to October. This was the biggest jump since May. The deceleration of the economy, however, should act to constrain inflationary pressures in the coming months. Overall, the consumer price index advanced 4.6 percent from

January through October, essentially unchanged from 4.4 percent in both 1987 and 1988.

Manufacturing Still On The Skids

Orders for big-ticket durable goods nationally fell 0.6 percent in October - the second month of decline. The drop was sharper than expected and gave further evidence of slack in U.S. industrial activity. Economists expect manufacturing to remain lackluster through the first half of 1990 although not sufficient to trigger an economic recession. Transportation orders rose 3 percent over the month to recoup some of the horrendous 10 percent slide in September. But military orders overwhelmed the total by dropping 12 percent over the month.

Collaterally, industrial production also fell in October. The 0.7 percent month-to-month slide was the steepest in more than three years. An earthquake in California and a near month-long strike at the Boeing Company were significant contributors. Barring these extraordinary events, production would have likely been flat. Nevertheless, the numbers clearly indicate a weakened industrial core. Production of business equipment and both durable and nondurable consumer goods weakened over the month.

Giving The Fed Space To Maneuver

Meanwhile, interest rates plunged sharply in October, driving housing starts up after two months of consecutive decline. Work began on houses and apartments at a 1.42 million unit annual rate up 12 percent from September. This was the largest month-to-month jump in nearly three years, but the level of starts simply returned to that of July before the late-summer plunge. The Western Wood Products Association expects national housing starts to continue at an average 1.4 million unit pace through the fourth quarter.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(All items, Urban Consumers, 1982-1984=100)

	INDEXES			% CHANGE FROM	
U.S. AVG	Oct. 89	Sep. 89	Oct. 88	Sep. 89	Oct. 88
	125.6	125.0	120.2	0.5%	4.5%
SEATTLE*	Jan-Jun 1989	Jul-Dec 1988		Jan-Jun 1988	
	116.7	111.9		4.3%	

** The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.*

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work[1]

(In Thousands)

Industry	Oct 1989 (Prel)	Sep 1989 (Rev)	Oct 1988 (Rev)	Sep 1988 (Rev)	Numeric Change: Sep 1989 to Oct 1989	Numeric Change: Oct 1988 to Oct 1989
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	2081.7	2074.9	1984.6	1972.3	6.8	97.1
MANUFACTURING	367.6	368.8	347.1	346.7	-1.2	20.5
Durable Goods	262.4	262.9	245.8	244.7	-0.5	16.6
Lumber & Wood Products	42.5	43.1	42.3[3]	42.1[3]	-0.6	0.2
Furniture & Fixtures	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.8	-0.2	-0.2
Primary Metals	13.1	13.3	13.2[3]	13.2[3]	-0.2	-0.1
Aluminum	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.1	-0.2	-0.2
Fabricated Metals	11.7	11.8	11.4	11.4	-0.1	0.3
Machinery	34.1	34.0	31.8[3]	32.1	0.1	2.3
Machinery Except Electrical	19.5	19.5	18.6	18.4	0.0	0.9
Electrical Equipment	14.6	14.5	13.2[3]	13.7	0.1	1.4
Transportation Equipment	131.3	130.7	118.0	116.8	0.6	13.3
Aerospace	116.0[4]	115.7	102.9	101.8	0.3	13.1
Other Transportation Equipment	15.3	15.0	15.1	15.0	0.3	0.2
Instruments & Related	11.7	11.9	11.6	11.5	-0.2	0.1
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.1	6.0	5.5	5.5	0.1	0.6
Nondurable Goods	105.2	105.9	101.3	102.0	-0.7	3.9
Food & Kindred Products	38.5	38.8	36.5	37.1	-0.3	2.0
Canned & Preserved Foods	16.8	17.1	15.4	15.7	-0.3	1.4
Apparel & Allied Products	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	0.0	0.2
Paper & Allied Products	17.2	17.6	17.0	17.3	-0.4	0.2
Printing & Publishing	22.4	22.4	21.8	21.7	0.0	0.6
Chemicals & Allied Products	10.4	10.4	10.1	10.1	0.0	0.3
Other Nondurable Goods[2]	10.3	10.3	9.7	9.6	0.0	0.6
MINING & QUARRYING	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	-0.1	0.0
CONSTRUCTION	114.9	115.9	104.7	105.1	-1.0	10.2
TRANSP., COMM., & UTIL.	107.9	108.5	103.6	104.4	-0.6	4.3
TRADE	507.2	510.6	486.3	487.1	-3.4	20.9
Wholesale Trade	123.6	124.7	119.3	120.0	-1.1	4.3
Retail Trade	383.6	385.9	367.0	367.1	-2.3	16.6
FIN., INSUR., & REAL ESTATE	115.7	116.3	110.8	111.1	-0.6	4.9
SERVICES	479.1	479.6	453.5	453.4	-0.5	25.6
Health Services	139.7	139.5	134.7	134.6	0.2	5.0
GOVERNMENT	385.8	371.6	375.1	361.0	14.2	10.7
Federal	73.5	73.8	71.7	72.3	-0.3	1.8
State & Local	312.3	297.8	303.4	288.7	14.5	8.9
Education	166.0	148.7	162.6	143.9	17.3	3.4
WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.5	0.0	-0.5

[1]Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

[2]Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

[3]Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management disputes.

[4]Labor dispute in aerospace affecting 42,900 workers from October 4 to November 22 not reflected as workers were on the job a portion of the pay period which included the 12th of the month.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

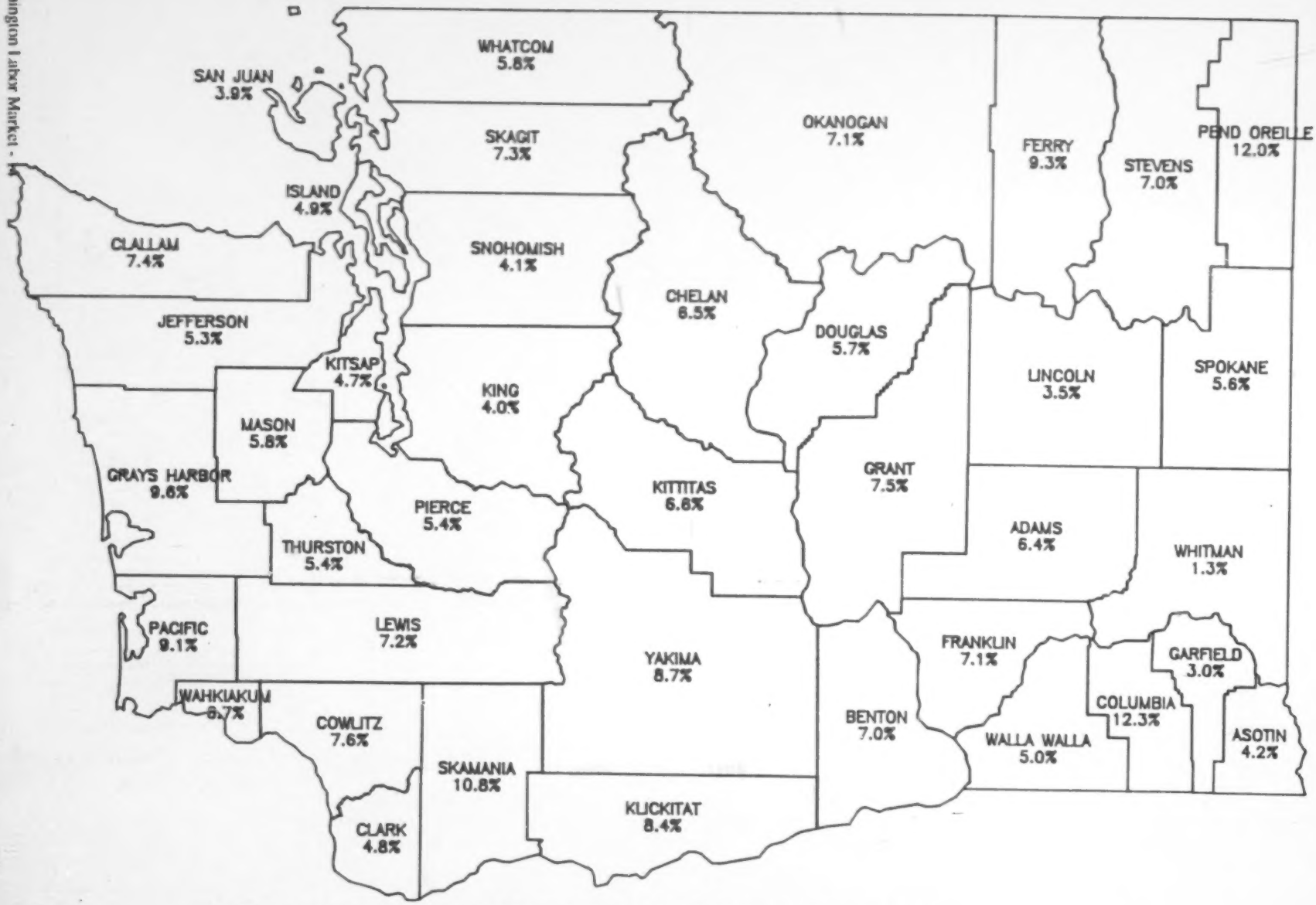
Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Date: 12/5/89
Benchmark: 1988

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	October 1989 Preliminary†				September 1989 Revised†				October 1988 Revised†			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total	2,411,700	2,287,400	124,300	5.2	2,385,500	2,258,400	127,100	5.3	2,327,900	2,206,700	121,200	5.2
Bellingham MSA	59,200	55,700	3,500	5.9	59,900	56,600	3,300	5.5	59,600	56,100	3,500	5.9
Bremerton MSA	76,800	73,300	3,500	4.6	76,000	72,500	3,500	4.6	75,700	72,000	3,700	4.9
Olympia MSA	77,500	73,500	4,000	5.2	76,800	72,900	3,900	5.1	75,300	70,900	4,400	5.8
Seattle PMSA	1,085,100	1,038,900	46,200	4.3	1,078,200	1,034,300	43,900	4.1	1,038,000	992,900	45,100	4.3
King County‡	859,460	822,600	36,800	4.3	854,000	818,900	35,100	4.1	821,300	786,200	35,100	4.3
Snohomish County‡	225,700	216,300	9,400	4.2	224,200	215,300	8,900	4.0	216,700	206,700	10,000	4.6
Spokane MSA	166,700	158,000	8,700	5.2	166,100	157,400	8,700	5.2	168,600	159,800	8,800	5.2
Tacoma PMSA	252,600	238,600	14,000	5.5	246,300	232,700	13,600	5.5	245,600	231,800	13,800	5.6
Tri-Cities MSA	70,100	65,800	4,300	6.1	68,900	63,700	5,200	7.5	67,400	62,700	4,700	7.0
Benton County‡	54,000	50,800	3,200	5.9	52,600	49,200	3,400	6.5	52,000	48,500	3,500	6.7
Franklin County‡	16,100	15,000	1,100	6.8	16,300	14,500	1,800	11.0	15,500	14,300	1,200	7.7
Vancouver PMSA	119,800	113,600	6,200	5.2	119,700	113,300	6,400	5.3	114,800	109,300	5,500	4.8
Yakima MSA	101,600	94,500	7,100	7.0	98,200	88,600	9,600	9.8	97,800	90,300	7,500	7.7
Adams	7,490	7,070	420	5.6	7,050	6,480	570	8.1	6,790	6,330	460	6.8
Asotin	9,650	9,290	360	3.7	9,610	9,260	350	3.6	9,360	8,960	400	4.3
Clallam	22,890	21,330	1,560	6.8	22,740	21,060	1,680	7.4	22,570	21,060	1,510	6.7
Columbia	1,510	1,340	170	11.3	1,570	1,390	180	11.5	1,500	1,310	190	12.7
Cowlitz	35,380	32,250	3,130	8.8	35,650	33,060	2,590	7.3	35,470	33,160	2,310	6.5
Ferry	3,100	2,810	290	9.4	3,200	2,900	300	9.4	2,780	2,530	250	9.0
Garfield	1,050	1,020	30	2.9	1,080	1,060	20	1.9	1,050	1,020	30	2.9
Grant	27,440	25,610	1,830	6.7	26,180	23,540	2,640	10.1	24,510	22,800	1,710	7.0
Grays Harbor	25,520	23,060	2,460	9.6	24,990	22,750	2,240	9.0	24,650	22,570	2,080	8.4
Island	20,470	19,600	870	4.3	20,670	19,830	840	4.1	19,180	18,380	800	4.2
Jefferson	8,640	8,220	420	4.9	8,420	8,030	390	4.6	8,280	7,840	440	5.3
Kittitas	11,450	10,680	770	6.7	11,320	10,570	750	6.6	11,440	10,720	720	6.3
Klickitat	8,300	7,630	670	8.1	8,410	7,490	920	10.9	7,400	6,820	580	7.8
Lewis	25,370	23,180	2,190	8.6	24,960	23,330	1,630	6.5	24,700	22,930	1,770	7.2
Lincoln	4,120	3,970	150	3.6	4,570	4,420	150	3.3	4,320	4,150	170	3.9
Mason	15,720	14,770	950	6.0	15,180	14,290	890	5.9	12,710	11,920	790	6.2
Okanogan	17,560	16,320	1,240	7.1	15,320	13,480	1,840	12.0	19,120	17,710	1,410	7.4
Pacific	7,490	6,670	820	10.9	7,770	7,110	660	8.5	7,250	6,740	510	7.0
Pend Oreille	3,490	3,120	370	10.6	3,550	3,190	360	10.1	3,390	3,040	350	10.3
San Juan	5,970	5,760	210	3.5	6,500	6,360	140	2.2	5,020	4,840	180	3.6
Skagit	35,480	32,920	2,560	7.2	36,650	34,340	2,310	6.3	32,270	29,940	2,330	7.2
Skamania	2,520	2,230	290	11.5	2,510	2,200	310	12.4	2,130	1,880	250	11.7
Stevens	12,380	11,540	840	6.8	12,330	11,470	860	7.0	11,640	10,820	820	7.0
Wahkiakum	1,150	1,060	90	7.8	1,250	1,180	70	5.6	1,180	1,100	80	6.8
Walla Walla	23,860	22,830	1,030	4.3	23,420	22,260	1,160	5.0	23,280	22,120	1,160	5.0
Wenatchee Labor Area	44,180	41,480	2,700	6.1	41,970	37,280	4,690	11.2	44,190	41,540	2,650	6.0
Chelan County‡	29,590	27,780	1,810	6.1	28,230	24,970	3,260	11.5	29,770	27,820	1,950	6.6
Douglas County‡	14,590	13,700	890	6.1	13,750	12,320	1,430	10.4	14,430	13,720	710	4.9
Whitman	20,040	19,650	390	1.9	18,540	18,150	390	2.1	19,060	18,660	400	2.1

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.
‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.



OCTOBER STATEWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE = 5.2%

Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, State of Washington

	Prelim Oct Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Oct 89	Sep 89	Oct 88	Oct 89	Sep 89	Oct 88	Oct 89	Sep 89	Oct 88
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES†	220,453	$404.71	$495.98	$496.28	34.2	40.0	41.5	$11.82	$12.39	$11.97
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	35,197	$463.49	$425.25	$465.45	40.8	37.5	41.3	$11.36	$11.34	$11.27
Primary Metal Industries	10,240	$566.10	$554.66	$527.94	42.5	41.3	41.9	$13.32	$13.43	$12.60
Fabricated Metal Products	9,628	$465.21	$477.30	$451.45	38.8	38.9	40.2	$11.99	$12.27	$11.23
Machinery	22,055	$391.72	$388.05	$380.70	38.9	39.0	40.5	$10.07	$9.95	$9.40
Food and Kindred Products	29,378	$368.28	$363.06	$345.86	39.6	38.5	38.6	$9.30	$9.43	$8.96
Chemical and Allied Products	4,046	$616.97	$629.85	$667.05	41.8	42.5	41.1	$14.76	$14.82	$16.23
Transportation Equipment	61,902	$292.52	$639.72	$627.40	20.6	43.4	43.6	$14.20	$14.74	$14.39
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	85,672	$628.67	$644.11	$626.11	37.6	37.8	37.9	$16.72	$17.04	$16.52
Wholesale and Retail Trade (does not include eating and drinking establishments)	318,470	$336.87	$341.55	$313.54	34.2	34.5	32.9	$9.85	$9.90	$9.53

†Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.